

Message Text

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70

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20

USIA-15 NIC-01 COME-00 EB-11 DRC-01 /100 W

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R 161430Z MAR 74

FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5750

C O N F I D E N T I A L CAIRO 1331

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR EG US

SUBJECT: CALL ON ASU SECRETARY GENERAL GHANEM

1. I CALLED ON ASU SECRETARY GENERAL HAFEZ GHANEM TODAY FOR AN HOUR'S CHAT. HE HAD INDICATED AT RECENT GROMYKO RECEPTION THAT HE WANTED EARLY OPPORTUNITY TO HAVE A LONG TALK.

2. GHANEM OPENED CONVERSATION BY NOTING IMPROVEMENT IN USG-GOE RELATIONS. THIS, IN HIS VIEW, SHOULD NOW BE FOLLOWED BY SIMILAR IMPROVED DIALOGUE AT NON-GOVERNMENTAL LEVELS. OUR RESPECTIVE LEGISLATORS, TRADE UNIONS, ACADEMIC COMMUNITIES, STUDENTS, ETC., MIGHT BE PROPER MEDIA FOR THIS.

3. GHANEM POINTED OUT ASU IS PRINCIPAL ELEMENT IN EGYPT THAT SENDS IMPULSES DOWNWARDS TO EDUCATE THE PUBLIC. IN THIS CONNECTION, HE RECALLED EGYPTIAN PUBLIC HAS FOR YEARS BEEN SUBJECTED TO BITTERLY ANTI-AMERICAN PROPAGANDA. RESULTANT PUBLIC ATTITUDES CAN ONLY BE CHANGED GRADUALLY. IT IS ASU LEADERSHIP'S DUTY TO INAUGURATE AND PLAN SUCH REEDUCATION EFFORT AND IT INTENDS DO SO. HE HOPED THAT WE MIGHT LEND SCH HELP AS FEASIBLE.

4. I WELCOMED GHANEM'S INTEREST IN MAKING OUR IMPROVED
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RELATIONSHIPS BETTER KNOWN AT GRASS ROOTS LEVELS, NOTING

THIS SHOULD ALSO STRENGTHEN PRESIDENT SADAT'S ABILITY TO PURSUE THE WISE POLICY HE HAS CHOSEN. I SUGGESTED AMERICAN BUSINESS COMMUNITY NOT BE NEGLECTED AND STRESSED IMPORTANCE OF ASU ASSURING BUSINESSMEN THAT IT SUPPORTS PRESIDENT'S LIBERALIZATION OF THE EGYPTIAN ECONOMY AND DESIRE BROADEN PRIVATE SECTOR. GHANEM SAID HE WAS AWARE OF THIS AND CLAIMED ASU HAD FOR PAST THREE MONTHS BEEN ENGAGED IN PUBLIC EDUCATION EFFORT IN SUPPORT OF SADAT'S ECONOMIC OBJECTIVES.

5. I OFFERED BE OF ALL APPROPRIATE ASSISTANCE AND WE AGREED KEEP IN TOUCH.
EILTS

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30 JUN 2005

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